



# Missouri NAEP News

August 2005

The National Assessment of Educational Progress

## Facts about NAEP

- The National Assessment of Education Progress is known as NAEP and is often called the "Nation's Report Card."
- NAEP has been conducted regularly since 1969.
- NAEP is the only nationally representative, continuing assessment of what American students know and can do in various subject areas.
- **National NAEP** reports information about student performance and factors related to educational performance for the nation and specific subgroups of the population. It includes students drawn from both public and non-public schools and reports results for student achievement in grades 4, 8 and 12.
- **State NAEP** is administered at grades 4 and 8, but not at grade 12. States can monitor their own progress over time in the selected subject areas. They can then compare the knowledge and skills of their students to students in other states and the nation.



## What's coming for NAEP 2006?

### What will NAEP 2006 assess?

NAEP 2006 will assess what students know and can do in U.S. History and Civics in grades 4, 8 and 12; and in economics in grade 12 only. NAEP will also conduct a small number of pilots (reading, mathematics and writing) and a special study in grade 12 (*Participation and Engagement*).

NAEP assessments will be conducted with a minimal burden to the district/school. NAEP field staff members are responsible for most aspects of test administration (e.g., coordinate assessment with school test coordinator, bring NAEP assessment materials to the school, conduct the assessment, collect and package the materials).

### Who will take NAEP?

Samples of Missouri students who represent the state's school population in grades 4, 8 and 12 will take the NAEP 2006 assessments. The NAEP contractor will first identify participating schools by applying a stratified-random sampling procedure to the Common Core of Data (CCD). The contractor will then select samples of students from these schools. Sampled students participate in only one subject assessment and the assessment requires approximately 90 minutes. In September, 2005, Dr. D. Kent King, Commissioner of Education, will notify superintendents regarding the Missouri public districts/schools that have been selected for the assessment or special study. Cynthia Hollis, NAEP State Coordinator, will follow up with the sampled district/school to provide additional details and support.

### When will NAEP be administered?

NAEP field staff will administer the majority of assessments during the regular testing window, **January 30 through March 10, 2006**; however, half of the schools selected for the grade 12 *Participation and Engagement Study* will be assessed during a fall testing window, **October 11-November 18, 2005**.

### How will results be reported?

NAEP will report regional and national results using average scale scores and achievement levels (*Basic, Proficient and Advanced*). NAEP 2006 is a national sample only; therefore, state results will not be available. District, school or student results are not reported.



## NAEP 2005 Results Coming Soon!

The NAEP 2005 assessment in mathematics, reading and science was administered in schools throughout the country from January to March 2005. National assessments were conducted at grades 4, 8, and 12. State assessments were conducted at grades 4 and 8 only, as was the Trial Urban District Assessment in several large urban districts.

In Missouri public schools, the NAEP 2005 sample involved approximately 30,000 students (325 schools, 184 school districts). The results in mathematics and reading for grades 4 and 8 will be released in the fall of 2005. The grade 12 mathematics and reading assessment results (national) will be released in the spring of 2006, as will the science results (state and national).

*Want to know  
more about  
NAEP?*

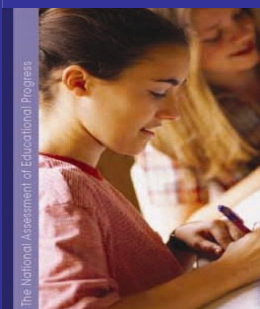
Visit the Missouri  
Department of  
Elementary and  
Secondary Education  
NAEP Web page at

[http://dese.mo.gov/  
divimprove/naep/](http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/naep/)

or

Visit the National  
Center for Education  
Statistics (NCES)  
Web site at

[http://nces.ed.gov/  
nationsreportcard/](http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/)



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## What can I find on the Department NAEP Web Page???

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has a Web page dedicated to information about the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

<http://www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/naep/>

Some of the many topics you will find on the Web page include:

- An **overview** of NAEP (includes a history of NAEP and its various components, organizational structure and connection to "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) legislation).
- **Content area information** (provides specific content area information).
- History and policies of NAEP regarding the **inclusion of special needs students**.
- **State and national results** for each content area assessed; recent Missouri results.
- **Resources** (parent information; available NAEP publications; released questions with performance data, scoring guides and anchor papers; data tool to aid in analysis of NAEP results, glossary and frequently asked questions).
- **Schedule of NAEP assessments**; description of current activities.
- **Bulletin board** section (timely information or recent additions to the Web page).

## The NAEP Question Tool – An Outstanding Resource!



After each assessment cycle, NAEP releases about 25 percent of the assessment items to the public via the NAEP Question Tool. The NAEP Question Tool (free for public use) provides easy access to hundreds of released NAEP assessment items from several content areas including mathematics, reading, writing, civics, U.S. History, geography, science and the arts. The tool allows teachers, parents and students to search for items in a variety of ways and to sort the items by domain, objectives, cognitive ability and difficulty level.

The NAEP Question Tool is an especially useful tool to Missouri teachers and students since the NAEP assessment frameworks were key resources used in the recently-developed Missouri Grade Level Expectations (GLEs); and the NAEP assessment item format (which includes multiple-choice items, short- and extended-constructed response items) is very similar to the MAP item format.

For each released assessment item, the NAEP Question Tool provides:

- 1) A printable version of the **question**.
- 2) Information about Missouri students' **performance** on the item (as well as other states and the Nation).
- 3) The **content area of knowledge** that the question is assessing.
- 4) The **scoring guide/key** used in judging student responses.
- 5) **Sample student responses** at each score level (anchor papers).
- 6) Additional data that includes how various **sub-groups** (gender, race/ethnicity, etc.) perform on the question.

In addition, the Question Tool allows users to customize and print a group of questions they select.

## How can I access the NAEP Question Tool?

- ✓ Go to the Department NAEP Web page: <http://www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/naep/>.
- ✓ In the "**Resources**" section, select "**Released Questions.**"
- ✓ Select "**Search Options**" to begin; use the drop down boxes to make your selections.